

May 11, 2016

U.S. Navy delivers first Seahawks to Danish Defense



Three MH-60R Seahawk helicopters bound for Denmark prepare to board C-17 aircraft at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation's William P. Gwinn Airfield in Jupiter, Fla. (Sikorsky/Lockheed Martin photo)

NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, JUPITER, Fla. – Three MH-60R Seahawk helicopters departed Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation's William P. Gwinn Airfield May 10, aboard two C-17 aircraft to join their new home with Air Squadron 723, Karup Air Base in Denmark.

This is the first delivery to the Danish Defense, which is replacing their former fleet of British Lynx helicopters with the Seahawk.

The second foreign military sales (FMS) procurement for the MH-60R, Denmark signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance for the nine aircraft in December 2012. The first FMS MH-60R Seahawks in Europe, their primary missions will be maritime surveillance, anti-surface warfare, force protection and utility transport operations, e.g. supporting NATO in anti-piracy operations. In the Arctic and North Atlantic region, the Danish MH-60R will also provide support to austere regions, patrolling territorial boundaries, fisheries and perform search and rescue.

The MH-60R Seahawk is already operational and deploying as the primary U.S. Navy anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare system for open-ocean and littoral zones. U.S.

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naval forces have found the Romeo platform to be an operationally effective and reliable first responder for all missions and contingencies encountered at sea around the world. The Royal Australian Navy was the first to procure the MH-60R through the FMS program; their 725 Squadron achieved initial operating capability in September 2015.

In addition to its primary mission of anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, the MH-60R Seahawk performs search and rescue, troop transport, medical evacuation, ship-to-ship replenishment, and humanitarian relief operations.

The U.S. Navy currently has eight operational carrier air wing squadrons, seven expeditionary squadrons, two fleet replacement squadrons and two test and evaluation squadrons operating the current inventory of 220 MH-60R's. The U.S. Navy is expected to procure a total of 280 MH-60R aircraft by July 2018.